

The Baptist Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

L.P. LEAVELL II DIES AT AGE 81

Landrum P. Leavell II, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor and president emeritus of New Orleans Seminary, died Sept. 26 in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was 81. The funeral was conducted on September 30 at First Church, Wichita Falls. A memorial service will be held in New Orleans Seminary's Roland Q. Leavell Chapel at 11 a.m. on Oct. 7.

More information on Leavell's passing will be published in the October 9 issue of *The Baptist Record*.

MBCB Annual Meeting Schedule

Tuesday Morning, First Session • October 28, 2008

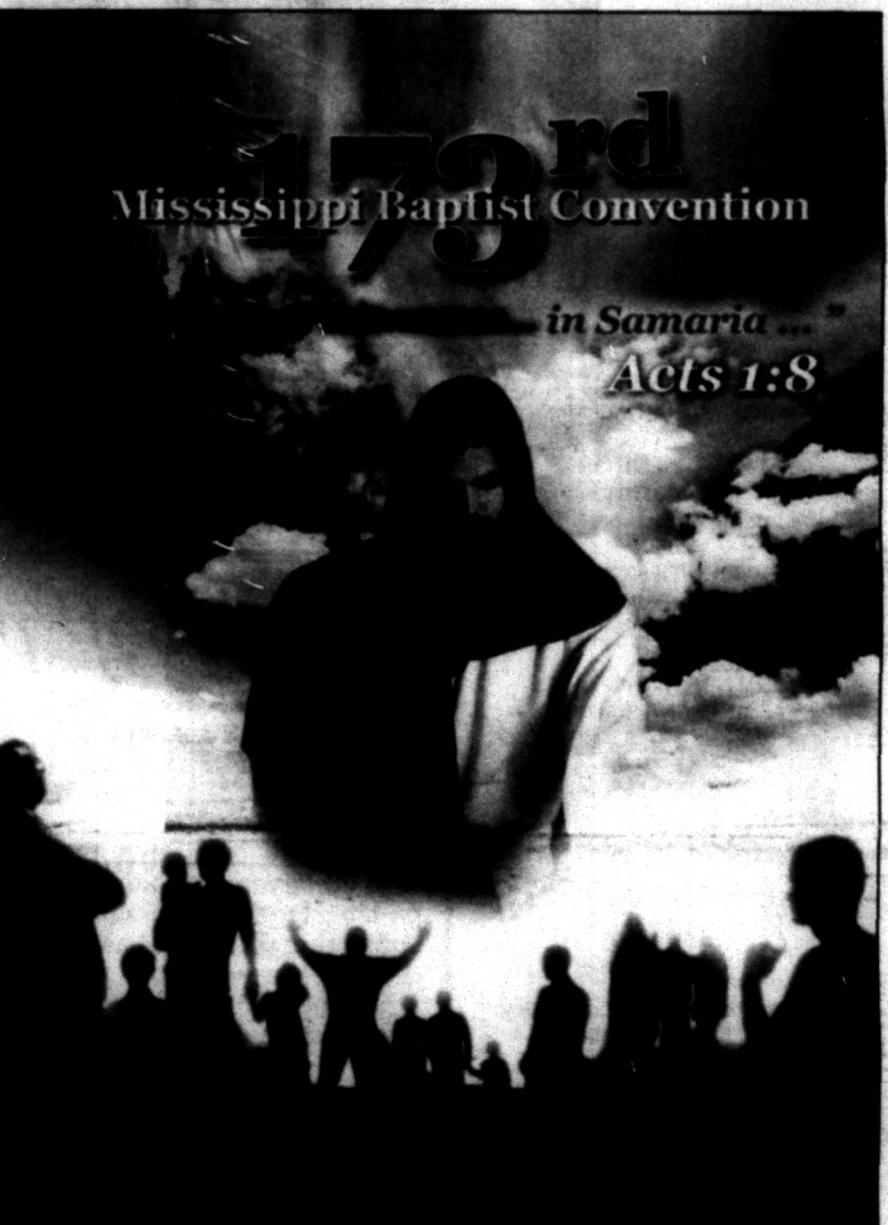
8:25	Concert of Praise	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Scripture Reading: Acts 1:8 and Acts 8:1-5	.Slater Murphy
	Prayer	.Doris Knight
8:45	Organization of the Convention	.Linda Donnell
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	.Lavon Gray
	Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee	.Mickey Dalrymple
8:55	Welcome from FBC, Jackson	.Stan Buckley
9:00	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Slater Murphy
9:25	Bible Treasure	.David Platt
9:30	Report of Committee on Committees	.Jay Richardson
9:35	Presentation of Resolutions	
9:45	Election of the President	.David Hamilton
10:05	Testimony	.Sammy Gilbreath
	Concert of Praise	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
		Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra
10:10	Christian Action Commission Report	.Jimmy Porter
10:20	Baptist Children's Village Report	.Rory Lee
10:30	Convention Board Report	.Gary Richardson
10:40	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Slater Murphy
10:45	Concert of Praise	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
		Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra
11:00	President's Address	.Mickey Dalrymple
11:30	Benediction	.Ruben Ramirez

Tuesday Afternoon, Second Session • October 28, 2008

1:30	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
1:45	Sounding of the Gavel	.David Hamilton
	Congregational Praise and Worship	.David Blackwell
	Scripture Reading: Luke 17:11-19	.Johnny Bley
	Prayer	.Courtney Selvy
1:55	Bible Treasure	.David Platt
2:20	Testimony	.Jerrod McCabe
2:40	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
2:50	Business Session	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Presentation of 2009 Budget	.Weldon Aultman
	Results of Election of President	
	Election of Convention Officers	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:15	Mississippi Baptist Foundation	.Daniel Hall
3:25	Business Session	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:50	Congregational Praise and Worship	.David Blackwell
3:55	Choral Praise	FBC Kosciusko Sanctuary Choir
4:10	Convention Sermon	.Barry Corbett
4:40	Benediction	.Travis Willis

Tuesday Night, Third Session • October 28, 2008

6:30	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Graham Smith
6:40	Sounding of Gavel	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Graham Smith
	Scripture Reading: John 4:1-10	.Anthony Britt
	Prayer	.Tracy Moser
6:55	Choral Praise	Metro Jackson Combined Choirs
7:05	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Graham Smith
7:10	Testimony	.Iris Blue
7:30	Choral Praise	Metro Jackson Combined Choirs
7:40	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Emphasis	.Jim Futral
8:15	Benediction	.Peter Liu



Wednesday Morning, Fourth Session • October 29, 2008

8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	.Steve Mooneyham
	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Randy Wood
	Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37	.Alvester Brown
	Prayer	.Robert Lenair
8:45	Bible Treasure	.David Platt
9:10	Report of Education Commission	.Brian Remley
9:15	Memorial Service	.Bruce Cappleman
9:25	Choral Praise	.Mississippi College Singers
9:35	Introduction of College Presidents	.Mickey Dalrymple
9:40	Mississippi College Report	.Lee Royce
9:50	Testimony	.Janet Thomas
10:10	Business Session	.Mickey Dalrymple
	Adoption of 2009 Budget	.Weldon Aultman
	Committee on Nominations Report	.Paul Crowley
	Time, Place & Preacher Committee Report	.Matt Buckles
	Resolutions Committee Report	.Jon Daniels
	Miscellaneous Business	.Mickey Dalrymple
10:40	Missions Mobilization	.Ken Rhodes
10:50	Congregational Praise and Worship	.Randy Wood
10:55	Special Guest Musician	.Aaron Odom
11:05	Message	
	Sowing and Reaping – Psalm 126:5-6	.David Uth
	Benediction	.Jim Booth



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It is a rare occasion for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employees attending out-of-state meetings when the question doesn't come up: "So, what are Baptists fighting about in your state?" Aside from being a sad commentary on the status of cooperation among Southern Baptists in general, the question is often accompanied by a long sigh and a look of weariness betraying the fact that such battles have been going on in too many places for far too long.

One of the most devastating weapons in Satan's arsenal has to be disunity among the fellowship of believers. We know that because he uses it so often and with such debilitating effectiveness. The results speak for themselves.

In several "old line" Southern Baptist states, there are now two state conventions. In some places, there are two Baptist state newspapers. In other places even the Cooperative Program isn't very cooperative, having been carved up to represent diverse factions that have very little in common.

What a shame.

The best answer

Mississippi Baptists will gather in a few weeks in Jackson for their annual meeting to praise the Lord, tend to the business of the convention, connect with old friends and former co-workers, find out what's new in ministry, and — did I mention this already? — praise the Lord.

That's where the focus of the meeting will be, because praising the Lord is what Mississippi Baptists do when they get together. There may indeed be issues raised that pit one brother against another on the floor of the convention. There may indeed be disagreement over those issues but, if Mississippi Baptists remain true to form, there won't be disunity. The issues will be heard and acted upon, and the body of churches known as the Mississippi Baptist Convention will move forward.

Mississippi Baptists obviously have a great respect for one another, and an unshakable faith in each other. That's evident at each annual meeting of the convention. Like most organizations the size of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, there are many viewpoints on the present and future direction of the convention. Those viewpoints, and the people who express them, are treated fairly and diplomatically, free of insult and personal attack. That's not true in all state Baptist conventions.

Mississippi Baptists should see for themselves how fortunate we are to be unified and how blessed we are by that unity. Every Mississippi Baptist should take time to serve as a messenger from his/her church. Every church in the convention should be represented by messengers. Unlike many Christian denominations where an unapproachable ecclesiastical hierarchy hands down edicts from on high, the leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is entrusted to the churches.

Under our system of polity, the churches oversee the convention, not the other way around. It's a wonderful system of governance, and has served us well in Mississippi for almost 200 years.

Every Mississippi Baptist should see it for themselves. Ask your pastor how to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention as a messenger. If your pastor isn't sure, ask him to call (800) 748-1651, ext. 201, to find out how to get involved in the annual meeting.

That way, when we are asked the regrettable but inevitable question, "What are Baptists fighting about in your state?" the answer will be, "The only fight in our state is the one to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, and we're all in agreement on that!"

Could there be a better answer?

'Fireproof' posts large opening weekend attendance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Audiences turned out in force Sept. 26-28 for the opening week of *Fireproof*, the latest film from the makers of the 2006 surprise hit, *Facing the Giants*.

Fireproof generated the second-highest average revenue in theaters this past weekend, beaten only by *Eagle Eye*, a thriller that showed in four times as many theaters and cost 160 times as much to make.

Across the country, people hungry for family friendly films packed the 839 theaters where *Fireproof* was showing. Attendance was boosted by churches that promoted the film to their members and in some cases bought out theaters as an outreach to their communities.

In Starke, Fla., almost 20% of the entire population of the city saw the movie, said Joe Fennell, executive pastor of First Church. The congregation contracted with the local theater to show *Fireproof* free to all comers and in three days 1,121 people attended a screening in the north Florida city.

Moviegoers came from "across the spectrum," Fennell said. Church members brought co-workers and neighbors, and non-believers came because it was free. He said he was especially pleased to see several engaged couples in the audience.

"I think the movie will provide a good foundation for them and increase their communication. It is an encouragement for healthy marriages, too," Fennell said.

A church staff member or volunteer was on-site for each showing and packets of evangelistic material were distributed at the end of the movie, Fennell said. One piece in the packet promoted a six-week sermon series on marriage that senior pastor Rodney Coe will begin preaching October 5.

"As in many churches, we have marriages that are struggling, and this is what prompted our pastor to preach the series after the movie," Fennell said. "We hope people will find in the movie enough truth of the Gospel and truth about typical mar-



Based on the book FACING THE GIANTS
FIREFPROOF

IN THEATERS FALL 2008
www.fireproofmovie.com

riage that they will think that their own marriage is worth saving."

Ashley Nelson of Arlington, Texas, who saw the movie on opening weekend, agreed.

"This movie addresses the needs that many couples struggle with in marriage — the need to be respected, the need for communication, but ultimately, the need for Christ as the center of the marriage," said Nelson, who is engaged to be married. "Just as [lead *Fireproof* characters] Caleb and Catherine realize, married couples need to understand God's true and pure love before they can truly love their spouse."

Kathy Steele, an assistant professor at New Orleans, believes *Fireproof* will be a great encouragement to couples in difficult marriages.

"I believe this movie can have a huge

impact on marriages. It is extremely realistic and deals with problems that are real in marriages today," Steele said. "I think one of the greatest ways this movie could strengthen marriages is that it can give hope to one partner who really wants to change the marriage, that if they change, the marriage can change."

"I think *Fireproof* could spark a new wave of Christians seeking to love their marital partners unconditionally, and to realize it has to be practical, everyday ways they treat each other," Steele added. "My hope is that the neutral story of another couple, seen from the 'inside,' will motivate Christian couples in our churches to start seeking to be more obedient to Christ in how they respond to each other."

MS Baptist Pastor's Conference set for Oct. 27

Afternoon Session

1:15 p.m.	Prelude Praise	Ross Johnson, Minister of Music
1:30 p.m.	Worship and Praise	First Baptist Church, Florence
1:35 p.m.	Welcome and Prayer	Buddy Sheriff, Conference President
1:50 p.m.	Message	Pastor, First Baptist Church, Florence
2:35 p.m.	Worship in Song	Michael Barnett, Pastor
2:40 p.m.	Election of President for 2009 and 2010	First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs
2:45 p.m.	Worship in Song	
2:50 p.m.	Message	
3:25 p.m.	Worship and Praise	Argile Smith, Pastor
3:30 p.m.	Treasurer 2008	First Baptist Church, Biloxi
3:50 p.m.	Message	Ross Johnson
		Otho Seals, Minister of Education
		First Baptist Church, Columbia
		Kara Blackard, Pastor
		Wheeler Grove Baptist Church, Corinth

Afternoon Session

6:30 p.m.	Worship and Praise	Ross Johnson
6:35 p.m.	Welcome and Prayer	Buddy Sheriff
6:40 p.m.	Worship in Song	
6:50 p.m.	Message	Gary Ragsdale, Pastor
7:25 p.m.	Worship and Praise	Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Alexandria, La.
7:55 p.m.	Message	
8:30 p.m.	Worship in Song	Fred Wolfe, Pastor
8:35 p.m.	Message	Luke 4:18 Fellowship, Mobile, Al.
9:15 p.m.	Prayer	Craig Connor, Pastor
		First Baptist Church, Panama City, Fl.
		President-Elect for 2009

HOTEL/MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 2008 Miss. BAPTIST CONVENTION

Hotel/Motel Rates effective October 27 – 29, 2008
When you ask for reservations be sure to tell them you are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Best Western Executive Inn 601-969-6555 725 Larson Street, I55 High Street Exit, 96-B	\$79.95 Single or Double per night + tax
Edison Walhall 601-948-6161 225 E. Capitol Street, I55 Pearl Street Exit, 96-A	\$85.00 Single + tax \$95.00 Double +tax
Holiday Inn Express 601-948-4466 310 Greymont Avenue, I55 High Street, Exit 96-B	\$85.00 Single or Double per night + tax
Regency Hotel & Convention Center 601-969-2141 400 Greymont Avenue, I55 High Street, Exit 96-B	\$75.00 Single or Double per night + tax
Quality Inn & Suites 601-969-2230 400 Greymont Avenue, I55 High Street , Exit 96- B	\$75.00 Single or Double per night + tax
Hampton Inn 601-352-1700 320 Greymont Avenue, I55 High Street, Exit 96-B	\$104.00 Single or Double per night + tax
Cabot Lodge Millsaps 601-948-8650 2375 North State Street	\$ 94.00 Single or Double per night + tax
Marriot Jackson 601-969-5100 200 Amite Street	\$109.00 Single or Double per night + tax

MBC ANNUAL MEETING '08

The Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will host its annual Church Planter's Appreciation Banquet Oct. 28, 5 PM, in the Baptist Building Chapel. For information or reservations contact: Scheryl Ng, sng@mbcb.org, or call (601) 292-3361. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 15.

The annual meeting of the Mississippi alumni of Southwestern Seminary will be Oct. 28, noon, in the chapel dining room of First Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$11 and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, Winston Association, P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339. Email amd@winstonbaptist.org or call (662) 773-3366. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief unit deploys to the parking lot of First Church, Pascagoula Sept. 29, in the aftermath of the landfall of Hurricane Georges, marking the third time the unit was sent to Pascagoula in 20 years of disaster relief ministry.

20 years ago

The Annuity Board announces that medical insurance rates will rise 30% in 1989. Also, some health benefit reductions are planned in an attempt to control soaring health-care costs. Medical claims are exceeding premiums by nearly \$1 million each month.

30 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention will be asked to adopt a Cooperative Program budget of \$2,275,000 as a result of a recommendation of the state Convention Board during meetings at the Baptist Building in Jackson.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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MZE SW EJHZCLHZ
CZUH, MZWE, U RHLIN-
WZ YZNAP MZCE SW LC
ZAEZHNAP NAEL JNW
HZWE, UAO LC OLS
WJLSMX WZZI EL VLIZ
WJLHE LC NE.

JZYHZDW CLSH:LAZ

Clue: : U=A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Ten Ten

GEESE ON THE GO

Geese are smart birds. They fly south in the winter and fly back north during the summer. The migration of migratory birds and animals is a fascinating study that science has looked into over the years. While they may have discovered some of the ways that geese know to start flying and they may have some indication of the way they find the path to go where they are supposed to fly, the reality is there is still room for some discussion and understanding. I got to thinking about these incredible birds when on the morning of August 9, 2008, I saw the first V-formation of Canada geese headed south. Then the very next day on Sunday afternoon I saw another V-formation headed south which I do not believe could possibly have been the first group because I was so many miles west of where I had spotted the first group going south.

How did they get so smart? Who told them to start flying down to the south and beyond? I can tell you without the date that in Mississippi, August 9 and 10 are still warm, hot, humid days. To my knowledge, there has never been an ice storm in Mississippi in the middle of August. Yet there they are headed south so they will not get caught in all of that bad bone-chilling weather. Seriously, who tells those birds to take off, where to go, and how to get there?

Through the years, some have thought that the gradual change in the plants — living, producing, and dying — indi-



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

cate to the geese that the season is going to change in a short time. Others have come up with theories about the angle of the sun reaching a certain point and the tilt of the earth on its axis signals the birds to start heading in a different direction. Others have even speculated that the birds have an internal clock and when the time is right the bell goes off within them and they head out.

Since I have not talked to any of the Canadian geese lately I cannot confirm any of those theories, but I do know this they are smart birds because long before anything harmful can happen to them they have already changed their lifestyle to make sure they are taken care of. Why is it that people with all of our superior qualities and high outstanding intelligence can't deal with those things that would be potentially dangerous or disastrous to us?

The great prophet Amos cried out in his day and said, "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12b). Isaiah delivered the words to King Hezekiah, "This is what the Lord says: Set your house in order for you are going to die and not live" (Isa. 38:1). The Apostle Paul wrote and said, "Behold, now is the accepted

time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2b). The Word of God declares everywhere that we need to make plans. We need to take advance warning. We need to do what needs to be done before winter comes.

The other thing that amazes me about these magnificent, majestic birds is how they are able to calculate for the trip. How do you get ready for the days ahead? I have never seen one of them flying with a suitcase under his arm. They don't fly over America with a special ticket nor do they pay taxes to go through IRS space. Where do they eat? I have never seen them at McDonalds or buying a Subway to go, and I don't think that they worry themselves into a big stew about the next meal. Seriously, they are not uptight about anything — not high gas prices, not food, or food costs. They do not even check to see what the Dow Jones did today. Apparently, they head off on this big adventure only with confidence in the One who made them.

The final amazing aspect of these huge birds is how they know where they are going. They carry no maps. They don't fly according to the layout of interstate highways yet they get where they are going. To me one of the finest things that has come into existence in all of the new fangled wingding gadgets that have come on the market in the last few years is the little GPS instrument. Nothing has impressed me as much as it has. There are many different kinds on the market and I think all of them work about the same. In my case if I know where I am going and I give the address to that gadget, the little lady starts telling me where to turn and what to do. She knows what she is talking about and can get me right where I need to be. I do not understand how all of that stuff works, but I do know that there is a guidance system given to us from heaven. The Scripture says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all of thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5-6). When I see folks who are flying in the wrong direction or sometimes flying in circles, I think how a word from God, who is able to give us clear, concise, accurate, and fulfilling directions for life, is so desperately needed.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mcb.org.

MS Positions

PIANIST NEEDED: TRACE RIDGE
Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., for Sunday am & pm services and choir practice before evening service. Call Beverly King at 601-992-2855.

FBC, STATE LINE, MISS., IS ACCEPTING resumes for a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to FBC, P.O. Box 66, State Line, MS 39362. Or call James Waller at 601-848-7768 or 601-394-9852.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH IN Morton, MS is seeking a part-time youth director or minister with potential for growth. Please send resume to search committee, 2221 Hwy 13 South, Morton, MS 39117.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Brookhaven, MS, is seeking a full-time worship Leader to lead a contemporary worship ministry. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to ryan@cbcbrookhaven.org.

OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Meridian, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music to lead in blended worship services. Responsibilities include directing adult choir, selecting and maintaining music library, and helping in other musical activities of the church. Interested persons may send resume to atolbird@hotmail.com or call 601-482-5583. Or send to P. O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

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Heidi Sherrill for Women

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a variety of health issues such
as skin care, osteoporosis,
sleep disorders and
smoking cessation.



For times and topics visit
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at 601-948-6262.

Baptist
for WOMEN

Roundup: alcohol flap, 'gay' greetings, wives at home

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 100 college presidents, some from top schools like Duke, Dartmouth, Syracuse, and Johns Hopkins, have reignited the debate about lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, contending that allowing teenagers to drink legally might actually curb binge drinking among college students.

The group, dubbed the Amethyst Initiative after a Greek gemstone believed to ward off intoxication, noted in a statement that Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, imposing a penalty of 10% of a state's highway appropriation on any state setting its drinking age lower than 21.

"Twenty-four years later, our experience as college and university presidents convinces us that 21 is not working," the group of presidents and chancellors said. "A culture of dangerous, clandestine 'binge-drinking' — often conducted off-campus — has developed.

"Alcohol education that mandates abstinence as the only legal option has not resulted in significant constructive behavioral change among our students," they added. "Adults under 21 are deemed capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military, but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer. By choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

The group asks, "How many times must we relearn the

lessons of prohibition?" and then calls upon elected officials to support a public debate over the drinking age, consider whether the 10 percent highway fund encourages or inhibits the debate, and offer new ideas about preparing young adults to make responsible decisions about alcohol.

Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami, declined to sign the Amethyst Initiative statement.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we've made some progress," the former secretary of health and human services during the Clinton administration told AP. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving says lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car wrecks, AP reported, and the group thinks the coalition of college presidents is looking for an easy way out of a problem they'd rather not deal with on their campuses. MADD officials, AP said, have urged parents to consider the safety of colleges whose presidents signed the statement.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, MADD's national president.

More than 40% of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence, and AP found

that 157 college-age people, 18-23, drank themselves to death from 1999-2005.

'Gay' greetings

Hallmark, the most recognized greeting card chain in the nation, has added a line of cards celebrating homosexual marriage in light of the California Supreme Court's decision to allow couples of the same gender to "marry."

The cards feature two tuxedos, overlapping hearts or intertwined flowers with best wishes inside. One says, "Two hearts. One promise." They avoid outright use of the term "gay marriage" because it's not legal in most states, but the point isn't hard to get.

"When I have shopped for situations like babies or weddings for gay friends I have good luck in quirky stores," Kathryn Hamm, president of the website gayweddings.com, told the Associated Press. "But if you are just in a generic store ... the bride and groom symbol or words are in most cards. It becomes difficult to find some that are neutral but have some style."

So Hallmark is filling that void. "It's our goal to be as relevant as possible to as many people as we can," Sarah Gronberg Kolell, a Hallmark spokes-

woman, told Associated Press.

Janice Crouse, director of Concerned Women for America's Beverly LaHaye Institute, expressed disappointment at the card carrier's decision to stock cards that promote homosexuality. "By latching onto the latest fad generated by the homosexual special interest group, Hallmark is negating its image as a wholesome company that promotes American values and pro-family principles in its products," Crouse said in a statement.

"American businesses have a corporate responsibility to the public that buys their products," Crouse added. "Instead of bolstering campaigns by special interest groups like the homosexual activists, corporations like Hallmark should be protecting American culture from those forces that would destroy the family and create a public environment that is detrimental to general well-being, especially children's well-being."

Wives at home

Feminists tried hard to break free from it, but now it seems more young adult women are embracing it. According to a recent article published on CNN.com, stay-at-home-wives are the latest status symbol.

"It says, 'We make enough money that we both don't need to work outside the home,'" said Scott Haltzman, author of *The Secrets of Happily Married Women*, "and especially with the recent economic pressures, a stay-at-home spouse is often an extreme and visible luxury."

In many cases, the women don't have children, and they don't telecommute, the article noted. They just stay home because they enjoy homemaking and they welcome the extra time to devote to their husbands.

"We're no longer stressed out," said Anne Marie Davis, a 34-year-old wife in Texas. Ten years ago she was an "overwhelmed" high school English teacher, she said, and she didn't have time for much else. Now, because she takes care of her home, she says her new lifestyle has made her happier and brought her closer to her husband.

Without a high-pressure workplace taking up most of her time, Davis now is able to pursue charity work, reading, creative writing and exploring new hobbies like sewing, the article said.

"In the past few years, many women who are well educated and trained for career tracks have decided instead to stay at home," Haltzman said.

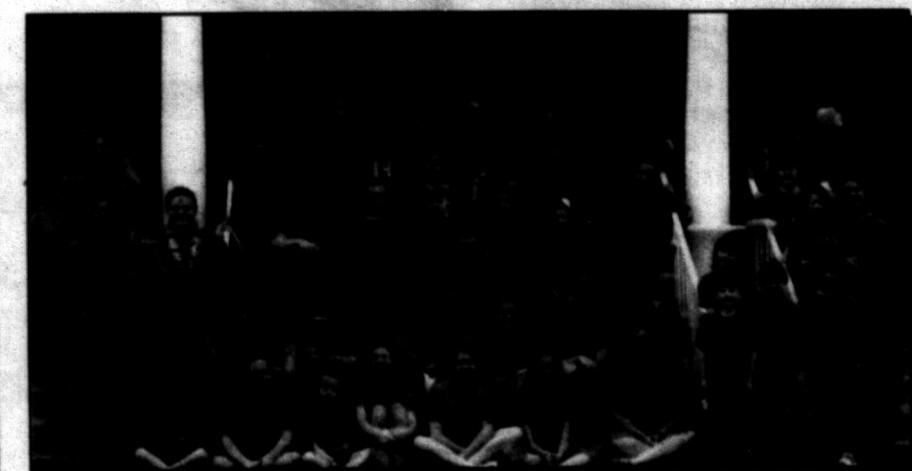
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Yellow Creek Church, Iuka: June 7. Shown are the participants.

2. Jericho Church, Guntown: Average attendance, 101, with 49 children having perfect attendance; \$500 in offerings and 101 Bibles purchased for troops overseas; Rickey and Marsha Roberts, directors. Shown are the participants.



1. Yellow Creek Church



2. Jericho Church

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. First Church, Leakesville: Revival, Oct. 5 - 8; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Gary Permenter, speaker; Eric Smith, music; Philip Price, pastor.
2. Phalti Church, Pachuta: Homecoming, Oct. 5; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; T.J. Archie, speaker.
3. Macedonia Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Calvin Phelps, speaker; Karen Hardy Fisk, music.
4. West Marks Church, Marks: Revival, Oct. 5 - 8; 7 p.m.; Ronnie Hatfield, speaker; Otha and Linda Geeslin, music.
5. New Hope Church, Foxworth: Homecoming, Oct. 5; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6:30 p.m.; Hiram Campbell, speaker; John Bell and Janeice Baughman, music.
6. Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto: 100th anniversary, Oct. 5; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by catered lunch; M.L. Wallace and Leon Wallace, speakers; Thomas Moak, music.
7. Baxterville Church, Lumberton: 100th anniversary, Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon of singing and testimonies. Call (601) 794-7957 for more information.
8. Shady Grove Church, Lucedale: Homecoming, Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; John Brock, speaker; Barry Tweedy, music.
9. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle: Homecoming, Oct. 5, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Alan Woodward, speaker; Southern Psalm, music.
10. First Church, Houlka: Revival, Oct. 5 - 8; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.
11. East Morton Church, Morton: Homecoming, Oct. 5; services, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Tommy May, speaker.
12. Good Hope Church, Louisville: 175th anniversary, Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Bob Posey, speaker.
13. Desoto Church, Clarke County: 150th anniversary, Oct. 17 - 19; Fri., catered meal for members and guests; Sat., children's performance by Chuckles the Clown and gospel sing with the Providentials, 6 p.m.; Sun., service, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Jim Futral, speaker; Mike Everett, Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, will present a plaque; Keith Tankersley, pastor.
14. Faith Church, Hickory Flat: 25th anniversary, Oct. 5; worship and note burning, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Larry West, speaker; Randy Futral, pastor.
15. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch: Revival, Oct. 5 - 8; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Linville, speaker.
16. Smyrna Church, Hazlehurst: 125th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 5; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert Hanvey, speaker.
17. East Union Church, Magnolia: Homecoming, Oct. 5; Sunday School (high attendance), 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Wilmer Goodwin, speaker; Roy Lang and the Clark Wilson family singers, music; Emon White, pastor.
18. Ludlow Church, Ludlow: Revival and homecoming, Oct. 5 - 8; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 170th birthday celebration; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, speaker; Susie Herring, music; Gary Lawson, pastor.
19. Benton Church, Yazoo Association: Homecoming, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m.; Charles Moore, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music.
20. Mission Hill Church, Wesson: 130th anniversary, Oct. 5; special music, 10 a.m.; fellowship time, 10:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; for information, call (601) 823-0717 or 643-2788.
21. O'Zion Church, Meadville: Revival and homecoming, Oct. 3 - 5; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Glenn Bird, pastor.
22. Yellow Creek Church, Iuka: Homecoming, Oct. 5; afternoon singing with Next of Kin; Stanley Magill, pastor.



STATE CHANGES

1. Faith Church, Hickory Flat has called Randy Futral as pastor effective Aug. 6. He has pastored churches in Alabama and Mississippi and comes from Double Springs Church, Golden Triangle Association. He is shown with his wife Olivia.



1. The Futrals

COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. Mississippi College is hosting a Family Weekend Oct. 3 - 5. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children, with children five and under admitted free. The price includes dinner on the Quad, a college T-shirt, and a ticket to the Choctaws' Oct. 4 football game. For more information, contact Joseph Odenwald, (601) 925-3248, email odenwald@mc.edu, or register online at www.mc.edu/webforms/familyweekend.
2. Mississippi College is hosting a 5K race named for Mississippi College Hall of Fame coach Hap Hudson Oct. 25. Registration cost is \$5 prior to Oct. 25 and \$20 the day of the race. For details, contact Suzanne McDonough at (601) 925-7720 or 940-8186.
3. Artist James Meade of Hattiesburg will open his exhibit 'Dante's Inferno' and Related Drawings Oct. 2 from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery at William Carey University. The exhibit will run Oct. 2 through Nov. 13. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. or by appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.
4. Edward McMillian, class of 1950, is named Alumnus of the Year at Mississippi College. He and 21 other honorees will be spotlighted at a homecoming luncheon 11:30 a.m., Oct. 25, at the B.C. Rogers Student Center. For more details on MC's homecoming Oct. 24-25, call (866) 232-3945 or visit www.mc.edu/alumni.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Everyone is Lost in Sin

Romans 1:18-25, 28-32; 3:9,10



By Bobby McKay

I want you to try something. I am not attempting to sell you an item you do not want or need. If you would oblige me for one moment I think this quick exercise will prove to be both beneficial for you and your relationship with everyone you come in contact.

First, place this copy of The Baptist Record on your lap, desk, or table. Make sure you are still able to read and have both of your hands free. Next, look at your left palm. Now, observe your right palm. Do you see anything unique or noteworthy? I have a piece of pencil lead embedded in my right palm that has been there since 1984, but that is about it. Do you see any scars? What

about scars that resemble nail prints? Hmm, me neither. That leads me to this point. You and I are not Jesus. We are all sinners. The world is comprised of sinners. Everyone is a sinner. That puts everyone in the same boat and on a level playing field. Now that we have that squared away, we can get down to business with this week's lesson.

Over the course of the next two months we will be looking at some key themes found in Romans. These teachings will hopefully provide you with a greater zeal for sharing your faith in Christ.

I was channel surfing a couple of weeks ago, when I heard an actor state that

"truth is whatever you can make other people believe". In response, let me paraphrase one of my favorite Bible teachers, "That line smells like smoke so it must be from hell". The culture in which we live epitomizes the first chapter of Romans. Many people in our nation refuse to believe that there is absolute truth. Our country is filled with the ludicrous notion that what may be truth for you, may not be truth for me. Some take it a step further and say that truth cannot be known.

What the lost world does not realize is that God is truth. Our knowledge of that truth is based on His grace to reveal it to us. We do not have the ability to "figure out God". Only by the Holy Spirit illuminating the Scripture and implanting it into our hearts and minds, are we able to grasp Bible doctrines. The

ASV Bible translates Romans 1:20 in this way: "For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse."

With each passing generation, there will be those who seek to discredit or suppress the truth that God exists. God can handle these accusations and foolish people. In a way, He already has. Verse 20 teaches us that whether or not people believe in Him, they are without excuse. He provides an unlimited number of examples through His creation that point back to his power and holiness. That leaves everyone without an excuse. Some people may not believe that God exists, that does not change the fact that He does.

Verses 21-25 demonstrate an important digression. When a person spends a lifetime attempting to suppress

or ignore the truth of the existence of God, a dark result will follow. That result is a sinful lifestyle. These individuals may pretend to be wise, but the Bible says that they are fools. Love and adoration usually reserved for the Father alone was now being offered to one another. This downward spiral continues in verses 28-32. Take notice of the list of actions of people who do not possess the righteousness of Christ.

As you read chapters one through three of Romans, you may ask yourself, "Where is the good news in all of this?" The good news is Jesus! He is the way, the truth, and the life. We must be ever mindful of Romans 3:9-10 as well as our un-scarred hands. These verses should humble us as we share the Gospel with those we encounter in our daily lives.

Mckay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Carry Out God-Given Instructions

1 Samuel 13: 5-15; 15: 1-35



Saul assumed the role of God's priest.

Saul disobeyed God and tried to justify his actions! God had clearly commanded the priest's task was to lead in worship and carry the Ark of the Covenant!

God's Word and commands stand. "Our beliefs about God determine our actions toward God." Did you ever read the classic book by J. B. Phillips, "Your God is Too Small"? Having read part one, "Destructive: unreal gods," part two merits re-reading: "Constructive: An Adequate God." We serve a great and powerful God!

2. Resist Temptations to Redefine Obedience

Since childhood I've loved to read about and experience God's love. After my second curriculum assignment years ago, a humbling lesson. I studied the assigned Scriptures and made preliminary plans for Bible learning projects around the theme of love. At the Nashville confer-

ence each of the twelve teachers posted their plans on large tear sheets. In front of all the others from across the country we took turns explaining our month of lessons. As one of the novice writers, I hoped to be last. But "my October unit" was first. My dear editor Dodie Baker was gentle but firm: "Ginger, this unit is not about love but about obedience!" I was humbled and carefully taught by my editor and other experienced writers. During the week I re-wrote my entire lesson plans, with help, then went home to prayerfully work for several months more. I learned more than anyone for "Obeying God's Laws of Love is a theme of my life."

Saul complained to Samuel: "But I did obey God." He tried to justify his actions and again disobeyed God. "Ultimately the real failure was in Saul's character." Saul showed his faith was not in God. Samuel was so upset, he prayed to God all night

3. Never Put Ritual in Place of Obedience

Samuel's reply is a sermon in a few words: "To obey is better than sacrifice." Read the entire passage from 1 Samuel 15:22-23.

Today we do well to remember Jesus' teaching: "To whom much is given, much is required." A leader of a nation is required to honor God first. Anything else is idol worship and breaks the first three of God's commands. Note this dramatic scene. "As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe. It tore! Samuel said to Saul, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today' (1 Sam. 15:27-28). Samuel didn't see Saul again but mourned for him God was grieved he had made Saul Israel's king (v.35).

Samuel carried out God's instructions. Saul didn't. Dr. Ray Robbins taught me how we are able to obey God (1 John 4:19 NIV). "We love because He first loved us."

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Friendship Class, First Church, Ripley



2. RAs and GAs, Branch Church



3. First Church, Plantersville, youth



4. Tutor recognition



1. The Friendship Sunday School class of First Church, Ripley, collected 528 pairs of shoes to deliver to Soles 4 Shoes in Roanoke, Ala. Shown are the participants.

2. The RAs and GAs of Branch Church, Morton, worked together to collect school supplies for the annual Christmas in August project. Shown are the participants.

3. Youth from First Church, Plantersville, recently participated in a prayer breakfast. Shown are the youth.

4. West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recognized Lynda Tutor for 31 years of teaching Sunday School. Shown is Tutor and pastor David Hamilton.

5. Harmony Church, Walnut, recently ordained Ronald Lambert as deacon. Shown are Benny Weatherly, Lambert, Cindy Lambert, and pastor Brian Tatum.

6. Ford's Creek Church, Poplarville, recently recognized W.A. "Jack" Wells for 40 years of service as a deacon. Shown are Doris and Jack Wells and Robert A. Lee.

7. Ingomar Church, New Albany, recently burned the note on the church's new family life center. Shown are pastor Clyde Pound, Billy Watkins, and Ronnie Raines.

8. New Hope Church, Foxworth, held a GA recognition Aug. 17. Shown are participants Sarah Bullock, Katelyn McKenzie, Samantha Harper, Molly Stringer, Abbey Whaley, Peyton Nace, and Meghan Bullock.

9. Benton Church, Benton, ordained Jimmy Goodwin as deacon Sept. 28.



The Baptist Record
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5. Lambert ordination



6. Wells recognition



7. Ingomar Church



8. New Hope Church GA recognition